

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 839
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ID

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF ACEH INDEPENDENCE GROUP

REF: MEDAN 0059

SUMMARY: CONSULATE HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER REPORT CONCERNING
ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF HASSAN DI TIRO AND HIS FOLLOWERS
GROUPED UNDER BANNER OF NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT FOR
ACEH SUMATRA (NLFAS). REPORT CLAIMS, AMONG OTHER THINGS,
THAT DI TIRO GROUP IS TO RECEIVE ARMS AND AMMUNITION
SMUGGLED BY FISHING BOATS AND LANDED AT LOCATION NEAR
LHO SUKON. SECURITY IN AREA OF ARUN GAS FIELDS HAS BEEN
TIGHTENED. END SUMMARY.

1. MOBIL OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE PROVIDED CONSULATE
WITH CONFIDENTIAL INTERNAL MEMORANDUM DESCRIBING
MOVE BY NLFAS TO OBTAIN ARMS. INFORMATION IN MEMO
BASED ON BRIEFING GIVEN BY LOCAL SPECIAL FORCES
COMMANDER TO MOBIL LOCAL EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON
ON SECURITY MATTERS AT ARUN.
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2. COMMANDER AVERRED THAT SPECIAL FORCES AT SIGLI HAD
DETERMINED THAT ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 17 HASSAN DI TIRO
AND 82 SUPPORTERS HAD HEADED SOUTHEAST FROM SIGLI
DESTINED FOR THE LHO SUKON/BLANG JRUEEN AREA WHICH IS
VERY NEAR THE ARUN GAS FIELDS. PURPOSE OF MOVEMENT WAS
TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THREE FISHING BOATS CARRYING ARMS AND

AMMUNITION TO AN UNKNOWN LANDING SITE IN THE VICINITY.
AMBUSHES HAD BEEN SET ALONG ALL KNOWN TRAILS IN
AREA BUT AS OF MARCH 6 NO CONTACT HAD BEEN MADE.

3. COMMANDER ALSO PRODUCED SEVERAL LETTERS FROM DI TIRO
GROUP TO WEALTHY RICE MILL OWNERS APPEALING FOR DONATIONS
TO NLFAS. LETTERS WERE SIGNED BY MOCHTAR HASBI WHO IS
NLFAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR (AND WHO, ACCORDING TO MOBIL
MEMO WAS INVOLVED IN MURDER OF AMCIT G. PERICONE LAST
NOVEMBER AT THE GAS INJECTION WELL (GIW) SITE 3).

4. SAME MOBIL LOCAL EMPLOYEE WAS INFORMED BY ARUN GARRISON
COMMANDER THAT SPECIAL FORCES HAD RECEIVED
INTELLIGENCE FROM "NON-MILITARY SOURCES" THAT DI TIRO
GROUP WAS HOLED UP IN AREA ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS FROM
MOBIL AIRSTRIP LOCATED AT POINT A. ON MARCH 5 SPECIAL
FORCES ACTED ON THIS REPORT BUT FAILED TO MAKE CONTACT
WITH NLFAS BAND.

5. LOCAL SECURITY FORCES HAVE STRENGTHENED GUARD FORCES
AT RIG AND GIW SITES. THE LATTER, BECAUSE OF THEIR
ISOLATION FROM THE MAIN ARUN CAMP, ARE FELT TO BE MOST
VULNERABLE TO NLFAS PENETRATION. IN ADDITION, MOBIL HAS
ACCEDED TO REQUEST FROM SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDER TO ALLOW
HIS TROOPS TO SAIL ON TUGS CHARTERED BY MOBIL IN THE HOPE
OF INTERCEPTING REPORTED GUN-RUNNING FISHING BOATS.
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6. COMMENT: MOBIL OFFICIALS HERE AND AT ARUN HAVE APPARENTLY
COME TO REGARD THE SOUND OF DISTANT SMALL-ARMS FIRE AS THE
NORM AND AS HAVING MUCH MORE TO DO WITH THE SPECIAL FORCES'
LACK OF WEAPONS DISCIPLINE THAN WITH GENUINE NLFAS INCURSIONS
IN THE AREA. NONETHELESS, THESE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED
BY REPORTS THAT THE ACEH LIBERATIONISTS ARE TO RECEIVE
MILITARY SUPPLIES FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES. A WELL-ARMED
INSURGENT FORCE WOULD CHANGE THE ENTIRE COMPLEXION OF THE
SECURITY PROBLEM IN THE ARUN AREA.
WALKER

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